

# WASHRAG

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Wireless Association of South Hills

VOLUME 22 Issue 07  
JULY 2020

COVID-19

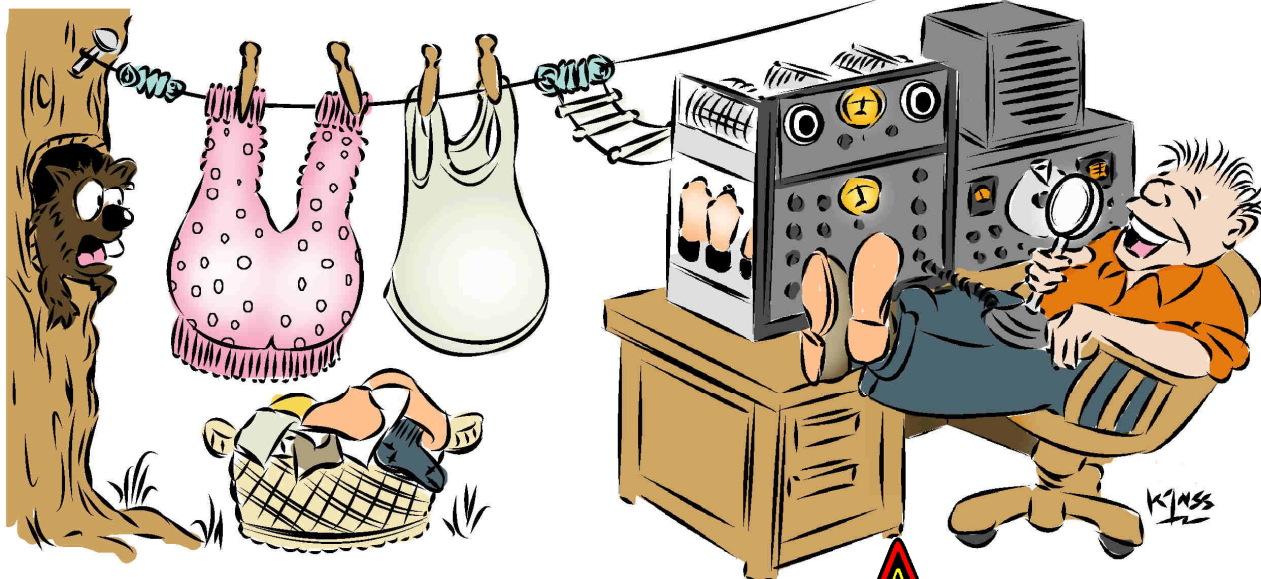
FIELD DAY 2020

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org) [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)



# Wireless Association of South Hills



## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 22 Issue 07

JULY 2020

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The next scheduled meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on **Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Due to the pandemic situation, the **July 2<sup>nd</sup>** meeting at the conference room has been cancelled & replaced by an on-line Zoom meeting, also starting at 7 PM. If you would like to attend but did not receive an invitation, contact Tony KB3BYA. See you there!

Cover Photo: We really would have preferred a Field Day "Action" Photo, but we have to settle for an empty shelter...

Cover Photo by courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN

## WASH 2020 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Grant Olson KC3MLC
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2021 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2021 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

**N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet**, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

**Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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e-mail: [newsletter@n3sh.org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org) or [w3wn@arrl.net](mailto:w3wn@arrl.net)

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.



## ***WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs***

### **Next WASH VE Test TBA**

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2020**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

#### **Pre-registration is required due to space limitations.**

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)  
Pen / Pencil / Calculator  
Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)  
Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)  
Check or Cash in the amount of \$15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates:

To Be Determined

### ***Tony's Musings***

Well if 2020 hasn't done enough yet..

Due to impending severe weather Field Day was canceled in favor of a "work from home" but like everything else the Ham community and this club in particular will always make lemonade from lemons.

And in this case although I did regret not working Field day from South Park, it was the right decision! and... I had a blast!!

I hope everyone got a chance to operate and had as much fun as I did! I even got to work Kuwait on 40 Meters on FT8!

Hopefully by August we can resume meeting at St Clair Hospital but until then.. see you on Zoom!

Thanks and everyone STAY SAFE and HEALTHY!!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH



***Reminder: The July WASH Meeting will be held online as a Zoom Meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting but did not receiving an invitation, please contact Tony Romano KB3BYA immediately.***

***If you do not have or cannot install the Zoom app, you can attend by telephone; Tony will get you the phone number.***

Just when you think we're starting to get back to normal...

Yes, **WASH Field Day** had to be **cancelled**. Glen goes into the reasons in his article on Page 6. But with FD cancelled, almost literally at the last minute, there too went what would have been our first Saturday Breakfast in many a month.

Now the good news on that front, most of the area Eat 'n' Park restaurants have reopened; with limited seating and menus (and no breakfast or salad bar!), but they are open. So... IF (and that's a big IF these days), we don't have a major relapse and see Allegheny and/or Washington Counties go back into the Yellow (or worse, **Red**) Phase at the end of the month, or see the indoor restaurant seating get closed down again...

It is hoped that the next meeting of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** will take place on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at **Eat 'n' Park, 3380 Washington Road** (US 19), **McMurray** PA 15317. But keep an ear on the repeaters and an eye on the club email reflector, as this can (and probably will) change before the end of the month, depending on how everything else goes; there are a lot of moving parts in play!

St. Clair Hospital has **not yet made the Meeting Room available** to 'outside' groups, which includes us. So July will be another online 'Zoom' meeting. Maybe August would be a good time to revive our once-annual end-of-summer Picnic meeting, if conditions warrant?

Once again, you'll notice a lot of "CANCELLED" notations on the calendar. Unfortunately, yes, that includes a few more hamfests (we were REALLY looking forward to Uniontown's on their new date this year), and other events (PVGP racing weekends, and **as this was being edited, KDKA News reports that the 'Race for the Cure' has now been cancelled and replaced for 2020 with a 'virtual race'.**) (Who would ever have thought that **WASHFEST** would be the ONLY hamfest of the year?) Let's hope that conditions will improve to the point that Skyview and BCARA won't have to do the same.

Grant KC3MLC has assumed the duties of the club **VEC Liaison** officially effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. (ARRL VEC has been notified, and we are waiting to hear when they will make it "on the record.") Grant has begun looking into test schedules & locations for the remainder of the year, so we hope to have some 2020 **VEC Sessions** scheduled as of the next newsletter. By the way, for those studying, don't forget that the Amateur Extra test was reprised as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Grant already has the new tests, courtesy of the ARRL VEC office.

Did you **operate Field Day from home**, or with another club? Have a story, or some pictures? We've printed in this issue everything we received to date, but it's only been 2 days since FD ended. So it's not too late; anything else received will simply go to the August issue. Or anything else, for that matter. Nice thing about a PDF based newsletter, we can always add another couple of pages, and it doesn't cost us any more in printing or postage!

Please, all, be safe and practice social distancing. We don't want to go to any more COVID-19 funerals.

Sound familiar?  
The UK Government invested in a broadband satellite system, OneWeb, intended to mitigate issues if the UK lost access to the European Union's Galileo satellite navigation system after Brexit.  
Turns out that they bought into the "wrong" satellite system, and OneWeb (who has no filed for bankruptcy) won't accomplish what they needed it to do.

***Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 23***

## Minutes, June 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

*Note: Due to the Pandemic Quarantine, the June meeting was held via a Zoom video teleconference.*

*The July meeting will be held the same way, for the same reason*

Call to Order: 19:05 hours. Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence for Silent Keys & Others.

Roll Call: Members Present: 15 Guests: 2

Committee Reports:

**Treasurer:** Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): June balance read and accepted.

**Secretary:** Dan Campbell (K3CMU): No corrections to the minutes.

**Repeaters:** Frank Bobro (N3FB): "Repeating"

**WASHNet:** Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Good Attendance

**Tuesday Night Net:** Glen Roberts (KE7FD): No report

**Contests:** Glen (KE7FD) Field Day will be discussed under Old Business.

**Public Service:** No Report

**Newsletter:** Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published!

**Volunteer Examiners:** Ron Notarius (W3WN): Looking into test session prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, if possible under current circumstances.

**Ways & Means** (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): No Report

**President's Report** - Tony Romano (KB3BYA): No Report

**Old Business:** Field Day 2020:

- We need redundancy in generators, probably 4 to 5
- Participants should download Cabrillo logging software
- Food to be determined
- Still awaiting authorization for overnight at Babcock and Cadman groves (*note: we received authorization on June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020*)
- Appropriate safety protocols will be established on the days of the events

**New Business:** No New Business

**Good of the Order:**

**Adjournment: Motion** Bill (W3WH) Seconded: Glen (KE7FD)

**Adjourned:** 20:24 hours



## WASH Spotlight: Congrats!

Welcome to the world Owen Troy Gebhard, grandson of Harold K3HCR, born 8:32 AM on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. 8 lbs, 9 oz, 22 In. Harold reports that "Mommy and Baby are doing well!"

Well, the club has had a Little Miss Field Day for 24 years now... about time we had a Little Mr. Field Day!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR



Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AE3DL	KB3JHR	N3SBF	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	KB3YCX	N7TDX	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	KC3ELA	N8NEU	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3HCR	KC3GMM	N9SOJ	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
K3JDS	KC3MLC	NY9H	NØPEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC3OCT	W3LE	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
K3VX	KC4WTT	W3WH	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3ENX
K6DWR	KE7FD	W3WN	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3FNM
KA3VXM	NØVLR	WA3PYU	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KB3BYA	N3DFK	WA3VSS	N8DPW	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KB3CMT	N3FB	WA3WXR		NP2JF	N3BPB
KB3DCO	N3KFD	WB4GCS			N3CZZ
KB3GMN	N3RDG				N3FZ
KB3GMU	N3RDV				N3HKQ

*If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV*

Through June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

N3KEH  
N3OBD  
N3RNX  
N3SKR  
N3SRC  
N3ZEL  
N3XFE  
W3ZLK  
WA3JPP

# 2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

## Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

July 11 <sup>th</sup> — 12 <sup>th</sup>	IARU HF World Championship	<a href="https://www.iaru.org">https://www.iaru.org</a>
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	CANCELLED
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cumberland Valley ARC Hamfest	CVAEMA Show Grounds, 1501 Criders Church Road, Chambersburg PA 17201
July 25 <sup>th</sup> — 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Schenley Park Race Weekend	CANCELLED
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	CANCELLED
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	DX Engineering Hamfest	CANCELLED
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Skyview Radio Society Swap N Shop	SRS Clubhouse, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington 15068
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Race for the Cure	CANCELLED
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Butler Co. ARA Swapfest	Unionville Fire Department, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA 16001
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	City of Pittsburgh Great Race	CANCELLED
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
October 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	64 <sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="https://www.paqsp.org">https://www.paqsp.org</a>
October 24 <sup>th</sup> — 25 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://cqww.com">http://cqww.com</a>
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington 15301
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
November 7 <sup>th</sup> — 8 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/">http://www.arrl.org/</a>
November 21 <sup>th</sup> — 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/">http://www.arrl.org/</a>
November 28 <sup>th</sup> — 29 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest CW	<a href="http://cqww.com">http://cqww.com</a>



# "Seen" At the June Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU



## WASH W8XK Field Day... Cancelled

Glen Roberts KE7FD

Clairton, PA, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -- Well, what can I say?

Field Day is perhaps one of the most anticipated events of the year for most hams. But, even in our best planning, there's always the possibility of something that can upset that apple cart.

Needless to say, after many hours of planning, acquisition of parts, supplies and the usual fare, it was all for naught.

What we expected for the weekend's forecast can best be explained by this:



Instead what really happened can best be explained by this photograph.



We've all been burned before; weather reports that promise sunshine that turn out to be rain, yet in our case severe storms that turned out to be very minor sprinkles in most areas.

We've dealt with much worse, but in an abundance of caution the Field Day committee opted to make sure that we were all safe. We can look forward to PA QSO Party and of course Field Day next year.

Thanks to everyone for all their efforts and preparing, but as was stated many years ago, "After all, tomorrow is another day..."



**More Field Day Coverage starting on Page 8**

**VE Exam Results on Page 10**



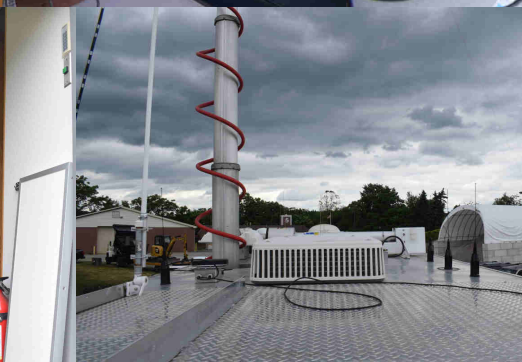
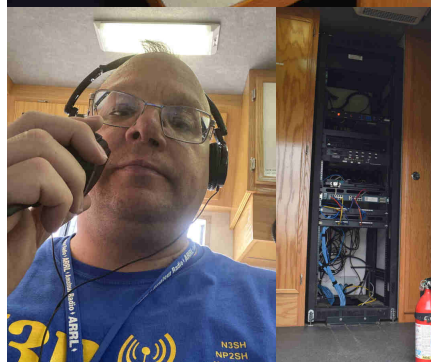
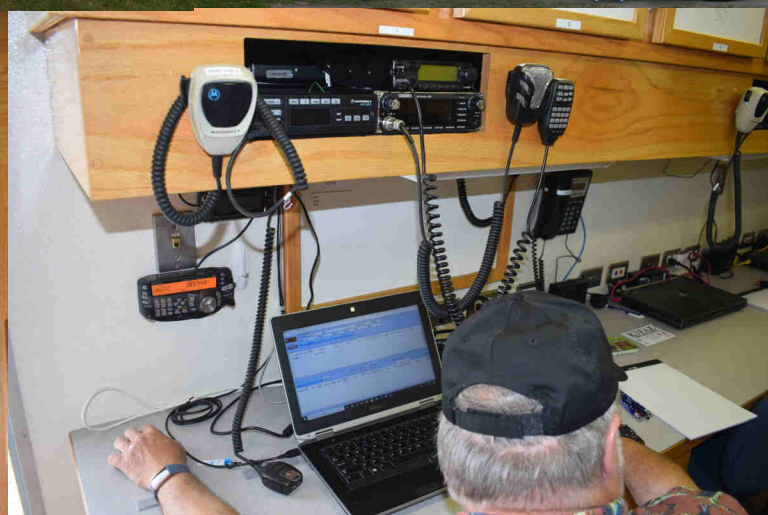
# WC3PS Command Post

Bob Mente NU3Q

Carnegie, PA, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – There was a special event station at the mobile WC3PS command post this past Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, in New Kensington, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Valley High ARC.

The WEARS club uses this command post for the Westmoreland County Air Show.

More pictures and video are available at <https://bobmente.smugmug.com/WC3PS-Command-Post-Vehicle>



QSL to : Tom Straub – **K33N**  
1020 Edgewood Road  
New Kensington, PA 15068

CONFIRMING QSO WITH			
DAY	MONTH	YEAR	
UTC	FREQ	RST	MODE
RIG		PWR	
ANTENNA		QSL	
		PSE TNX	

wp3psa.weebom.com

73.

WPA3PSA was founded in 1970 as part of an Amateur Radio Club at Valley High School in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. We operated under the call W33PS (Public High School). Our club sponsors were W3WGH, W3JMS (4K), and K3ZCA (4K). 2020 marks our group's 50th Anniversary operating Field Day!

Group Members: W3WGH, W3JMS, AC3EL, W3JL(4K), K3JN, K3BOKS, K3JLQ, N3MMU, K3JOKR, N3JU



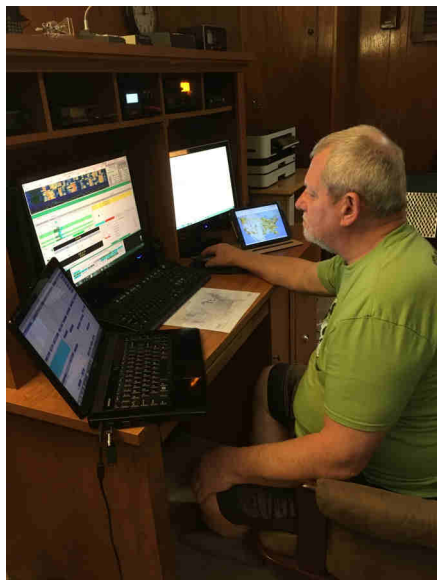
## ***N8NEU Field Day***

Tim Kelly N8NEU



*Pittsburgh, PA, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020* – As a member of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, I experienced my second Field Day as a licensed amateur radio operator. Last year was my first Field Day and I had the honor and privilege to work the GOTA station with KE7FD. What a learning experience that was for me.

I heard that only four stations were going to be used (2 SSB and 2 CW) this year at South Park due to the corona virus. I inquired if it was possible for me to work digital from my QTH and whatever points I accumulated I would give to the club. This was agreed during a Zoom meeting and I began to prepare for this first time adventure. But I must admit, trekking this for the first time on my own did put some reservation in the back of my mind.



After reading the statement from Glen on Friday that Field Day was canceled at South Park, it was evident I would not be alone with working Field Day from home. I figured that many club members would be working the modes they most enjoy.

So as a novice I must admit laughingly that I did start 59 minutes early. Yep I was using the -5 hours behind UTC rather than the -4 hours under Daylight Savings Time. I did not notice this until I received a supersizing message pop open on my computer screen stating Field Day had not started. I was even given the <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html> website to verify his text message. I returned a text message thanking him for the correction on my error. I wrote this reply back all the while watching other CQ Field Day requests going out over the airwaves 59 minutes early.

Most of Saturday I participated as a fox. I hunted down the "Sections" I needed to fill-in on the N3FJP logging software. I worked as many as I could until Sunday 0300 hours local time. I had many call signs from Maine to the West Coast and everything in between. However I only had 79 total contacts.

I started back into searching for elusive stations I had not logged thus far. I began to successfully complete the New England States, New York and other East Coast States, the Southeast, the deep South, mid West and Texas. My count went to 92 by 1400 hours local time. I was working 15 meters and changed to 20 meters around 1450 hours local. After logging three logbook entries on 20 meters I had another window pop open. I was being asked to return to 15 meters. I went back and waited. Nothing happened. I figured out how to return messages (this was all new to me) and sent back a message on what I was supposed to do? A reply came back asking me to "hold on". A few minutes later another message returned stated there were many stations on the West Coast that needed Pennsylvania in their logbooks. He instructed me to just send out CQs and wait. Overall by the time Field Days was over with I had 29 more contacts for a total of 121 in my logbook. The best part of this was that most of the contacts were from California locations that had eluded me and not yet contacted and logged.

File

Settings

Band

Mode

View

Network

Operator

Help

■

Current Band & Mode

■

Band

Recent Contacts

● Last 20

○ All

Rec

Call

Class

Sec

Date / Time

End

Mode

Country

Initials

Operator

41	K7EAZ	1D	AZ	06/28 02:32	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
40	N1VK	1D	IA	06/28 02:26	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
39	K5TDA	1D	WTX	06/28 02:17	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
38	K6EX	1D	ORG	06/28 02:09	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
37	AK6A	1D	OR	06/28 02:00	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
36	N0ZMF	1D	KS	06/28 01:55	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
35	N0AW	1E	CO	06/28 01:50	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
34	W9FRG	5A	WI	06/28 01:48	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU
33	N4NQ	1D	GA	06/28 01:41	20	DIG	USA	TMK	N8NEU

Score Statistics

Total CW Contacts	0
Total Phone Contacts	0
Total DIG Contacts	121
Total QSO Points	242
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	10

Call

Class

Section

Clear

Spot Last

Possible Duplicates

☒ Any Portion

Orange

Total = 2

Bands: 20 = 1 15 = 1

DIG = 2

DX

1

CT RI

EMA VT

ME WMA

NH

2

ENY NNY

NLI SNJ

NNJ WNY

3

DE MDC

EPA WPA

4

AL SC

GA SFL

KY TN

NC VA

NFL VI

PR WCF

5

AR NTX

LA OK

MS STX

NM WTX

6

EBX SCV

LAX SDG

ORG SF

PAC SJV

SB SV

7

AK NV

AK OR

EWA UT

ID WWA

MT WY

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IL WI

IN

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CO MO

IA ND

KS NE

MN SD

Canada

AB NT

BC ONE

GTA OMN

MAR ONS

MB PE

NL QC

SK

Bearing:

Miles:

Band: 15

Mode: DIG

N8NEU

1D

WPA

4:25:59 PM

20:24:59 UTC

I heard Alaska and Hawaii once each. I saw on the PSK Reporter that they both heard me with good db signals. I just could not make contact. Too many signals clashing in the atmosphere I guess.

I also heard Utah once as did Puerto Rico with no contact. I did not hear very many Canadian stations, but made contact with three stations. I filled in as much blue fields on N3FJP as I could. Not bad for the first time I must say. See attached screenshot.

The day ended on a good note and I felt happy and content with my achievements for my first time digital Field Day.

I can't wait for Field Day 2021 and to try other modes.

Photo and screenshot courtesy of and ©  
Copyright 2020 Tim Kelly N8NEU

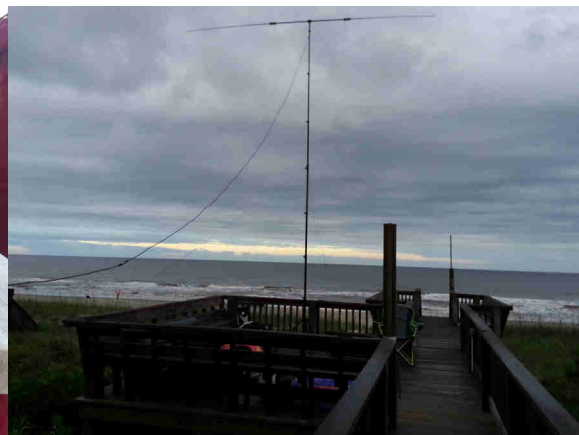
***KC3GMM/4, Holden Beach, NC***

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM

*Westland, PA June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – Here are some pics of my portable setup from down at Holden Beach NC, from a couple of weeks ago.*

I don't really have anything noteworthy to write to accompany the pictures, but I'll do my best here. I'm using an ICOM 706 MKIIG powered by a deep cycle battery with a Buddipole.

I was hoping for a nice band opening on 10m to check into the Breezeshooters Net on Monday night, but didn't have any luck. I resorted to remotely operating the radio at home over the internet for my check-in. Later in the week I did work a handful of folks back here as well as a couple of locals down there on 40m. 40m worked really well between







## ***W3WH Field Day: Sort of, but Not Exactly***

Bill Hill W3WH

Chartiers Township, PA, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Field Day was held this past weekend — but it just wasn't the same. There was something nice about being in the dry and air conditioned shack but it lacked the comradery of our group effort at Babcock Grove in South Park. We didn't get to see folks who are generally scarce except for Field Day or our tower trailer or Jim's immense setup for his SDR rig and much more.

All things considered (IMHO) it was a good decision to cancel our event in light of Covid-19 and the turbulent weather forecast. We decided to err on the side of safety for all instead of yielding to the love of our only Club operating event of the year. Glen, KE7FD put in a lot of time and effort to prepare (thank you Glen) and WASH spent some money for equipment improvements but they will all be available for the next FD.

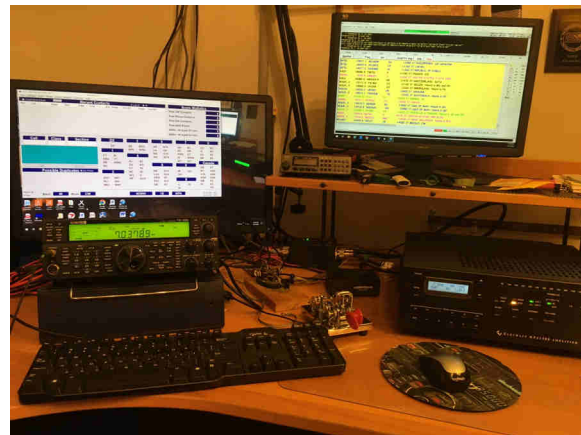
Instead some of us worked from home. If you got on the air over the weekend it was painfully obvious that most of the Country did the same thing since the bands were filled 1D stations and very few "A" entrants. Hopefully by next June this will be but a memory.

A couple of interesting things happened to me. One was KL7RA in Alaska who reported a 12D class. First it was unusual to hear Alaska at all and secondly 12D?? I hope I copied that right because I was still half asleep early Sunday morning when I worked him. Another first for me was I received a call from GØORC who was working the event from his home in England. He's the first DX station I ever worked during FD.

One thing I didn't miss was either staying up all night or trying to sleep in my car or if I went home trying to convince myself that I really wanted to get up and go back to spending time with all descriptions of critters who are attracted by our lights.

At this point I don't know how many of us got on the air since I didn't listen to SSB where most of us would have been. I know that Carol and Richie logged 300 Q's and between Larry and I, we logged 484 CW Q's. Glen has technical difficulties and was limited to 20 QSO's.

Now that it's over, it was fun but it just wasn't the same. Let's hope for good health and weather in 2021.



## ***W3WN Field Day: It's Not the Size (of the Log) That Matters, It's How You Use It***

Ron Notarius W3WN

Castle Shannon, PA, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – I've been to a good many Field Days over the years, since breaking in with the old Livingston ARC W2MO in NJ in 1973. There's something special about FD, that transcends the comfort of the home shack for a routine domestic contest (yes, I know, Field Day is not a contest!).

So I too was disappointed when the news came out that the severe weather forecast for the weekend, on top of all the restrictions and changes caused by the pandemic, to say nothing of all the operators who had made other plans because of those restrictions. It was the proverbial last straw – all the crueler since the severe weather we expected turned out to be a fizzle.

But I decided to make the most of the weekend. Besides catching up on some small parts of the Honeydew List, I observed on Saturday afternoon that the high bands were open, like they haven't been for quite some time. (Amazing, isn't it, the effect of a contest operating event will have on propagation!) This presented itself as the perfect opportunity to try and fill in some of the missing slots for both 10 and 15 meter Worked All States.

Saturday had other things in mind, so only a few contacts – but quality contacts – were made. Sunday morning, though, the bands were still open, and I had a few hours to devote to operating, while everyone else slept in.

No, I didn't complete either band for WAS (Delaware is proving to be VERY elusive from WPA on both bands), but I did put a significant dent into each. If everyone worked will confirm, now only 3 states remain to work & confirm for 10, and 5 for 15.

35 QSOs might not seem like a lot. But they served their purpose, and served it well.

See you next year!





# VE Exam at Babcock

Ron Notarius W3WN



Castle Shannon, PA, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The VE exams scheduled for 1 PM on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> took place at Babcock Grove, South Park – what was scheduled to be our Field Day location until it wasn't.

Two of the pre-registered candidates arrived. Unfortunately, sad to say, we cannot report any upgraded licenses at this test session.

Thanks to our VE's Glen KE7FD, Rick N3SBF, and Grant KC3MLC.

This session also marked the end of one era and the start of another. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Grant Olson KC3MLC will be taking over as the WASH VEC Liaison. While it has been a real pleasure to serve as the VEC Liaison, these last few years, new responsibilities with a new job will make it difficult to continue in the position. My thanks to Grant for stepping up to take on the role, and I look forward to working with him in the future!

73, Ron W3WN, VE Team Liaison (outgoing)

*"Changing of the Guard" photo by Glen Roberts KE7FD, © 2020 The WASHRag*



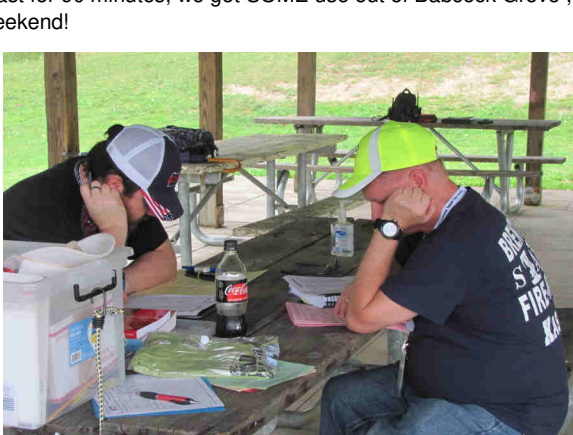
## "Seen" at Babcock

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2020 Ron Notarius W3WN



Some came to test, or be tested. Some came by to pick up their Field Day pins and shirts. Some just stopped by to say "hello".

But, at least for 90 minutes, we got SOME use out of Babcock Grove, for the weekend!







## Volunteer Monitor Program Recognizes Good Operators

Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, American Radio Relay League

Gettysburg, PA, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – **Volunteer Monitor Program** Coordinator Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH said the program has recognized numerous radio amateurs with Good Operator Notices.

"One facet of the ARRL and FCC agreement that set up the Volunteer Monitor Program calls for ARRL to recognize especially good amateur radio behavior, in order to encourage compliance with FCC rules and further the efficiency of the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth said.

"Seventeen operators in 15 states received Good Operator Notices in the first quarter of 2020. The Good Operator Notices went to veteran operators as well as newcomers, including a 13-year-old in North Carolina for CW operation during the Youth on the Air Special Event, and a 14-year-old in Wyoming for SSB operation."

Hollingsworth also said that a 2-meter repeater operator received a Good Operator Report for establishing and managing a COVID-19 net in Pennsylvania, while other operators of various license classes received notices for everyday SSB and CW operation on the HF bands. Recipients were nominated on the basis of operation observed by Volunteer Monitors.

According to Hollingsworth, Volunteer Monitors reported 2035 hours monitoring on HF monitoring, and 2856 hours monitoring on VHF/UHF and other frequencies during May. Two cases were referred to FCC.

After kicking off on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the new Volunteer Monitor Program ramped up to operational status earlier this spring, starting with a "soft rollout" that started on February 1, designed to familiarize Volunteer Monitors (VMs) with issues on the bands and to put into practice what to report — and what to ignore, based on their training.

VMs not only look for operating discrepancies, but for examples of good operating. Hollingsworth is using a system called *VMTRAC* — developed by a VM — to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program.



## US Air Force MARS Announces Broadcasts from MARS Chief

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The 1<sup>st</sup> US Air Force MARS Special Operations Group (1AFMSOG) Military Support Network Squadron broadcasts a message on alternate weeks (Fridays in US time zones) from the Chief Air Force MARS. The broadcast addresses Air Force MARS members, but all amateur radio stations and shortwave listeners are invited to monitor the transmissions.

The next transmissions will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2300 UTC on 11.121 MHz, and 2320 on 7.324 MHz, followed by transmissions on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 0100 UTC on 7.324 MHz and 11.121 MHz, and at 0120 UTC on 7.324 MHz. [Send](#) reception reports via email. These broadcasts occur on alternating Friday evenings, local time in the continental US.

## AO-73 Now in Full-Time Transponder Mode

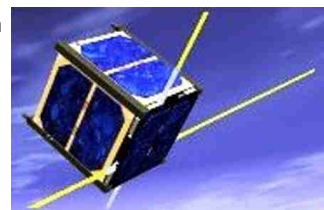
Graham Shirville G3VZV and AMSAT-UK

Kensington, MD, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – AMSAT reports that, after some 8 months in continuous sunlight, AO-73 (FUNcube-1) began to encounter some eclipses during each orbit.

Telemetry showed that AO-73 continued to function, although maintaining a sufficient battery charge was a concern. After 3 weeks of increasing eclipse periods, however, AMSAT reported that the lithium-ion battery appears to be okay, and the bus voltage has not yet dropped below 8.1 V. The operating mode has been shifted from high-power telemetry educational mode to continuous amateur mode with the transponder on.

Telemetry continues to be available, but at low power.

– Courtesy of AMSAT News Service ANS-159



## International Postal Service Still Disrupted

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The US Postal Service (USPS) has temporarily suspended international mail acceptance for items addressed to certain destinations due to service impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation could result in the return or loss of mail, such as QSL cards, addressed to affected parts of the world. The USPS has posted a [list of affected countries](#), which is updated regularly.



The Postal Service will, upon request, refund postage and fees on mail bearing a customs stamp that's returned due to the suspension of service, or the sender may re-mail returned items with existing postage once service has been restored. When re-mailing under this option, customers should cross out the markings "Mail Service Suspended — Return to Sender."

## ARRL Foundation Awards Grant to ORI

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – The ARRL Foundation has awarded \$3,000 to the Open Research Institute (ORI). The grant will be applied to Phase 1 of the Digital Multiplex Transponder research and development program. ORI is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to open-source research and development in amateur radio. This grant will allow hardware prototypes for broadband microwave digital satellite payloads to proceed more rapidly.



An independent IRS 501(c)(3) entity, the ARRL Foundation administers programs to support the amateur radio community, including scholarships for higher education, award grants for amateur radio projects, and special amateur radio program grants for The Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive Program and The Jesse A. Bieberman Meritorious Membership Program.

# WSJT-X Version 2.2.0 Now in General Release

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – WSJT-X version 2.2.0 is now in general availability release, after a short stint in beta (or release candidate) status. WSJT-X version 2.2 offers 10 different protocols or modes — FT4, FT8, JT4, JT9, JT65, QRA64, ISCAT, MSK144, WSPR, and Echo. The first six are designed for reliable contacts under weak-signal conditions, and they use nearly identical message structure and source encoding. JT65 and QRA64 were designed for EME (“moonbounce”) on VHF/UHF bands but have also proven very effective for worldwide very low-power communication on HF bands.

“FT8 is operationally similar but four times faster (15-second T/R [transmit-receive] sequences) and less sensitive by a few decibels,” developer Joe Taylor K1JT explains in the version 2.2.0 [User Guide](#). “FT4 is faster still (7.5-second T/R sequences) and especially well suited for contesting.”

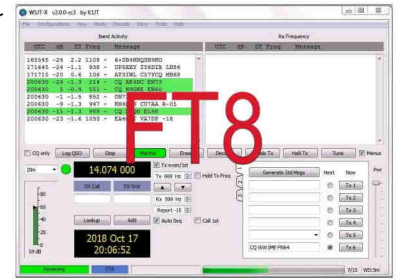
Taylor noted that even with their shorter transmit-receive sequences, FT4 and FT8 are considered “slow modes,” because their message frames are sent only once per transmission. “All fast modes in WSJT-X send their message frames repeatedly, as many times as will fit into the [transmit] sequence length,” he explained.

Compared with FT8, FT4 is 3.5 dB less sensitive and requires 1.6 times the bandwidth, but it offers the potential for twice the contact rate.

New in WSJT-X version 2.2.0: FT8 decoding is now spread over three intervals, the first starting at 11.8 seconds into a receive sequence and typically yielding around 85% of the possible decodes. This means users see most decodes much sooner than with previous versions. A second processing step starts at 13.5 seconds, and a third at 14.7 seconds.

“Overall decoding yield on crowded bands is improved by 10% or more,” Taylor said.

Other changes: Signal-to-noise (SNR) estimates no longer saturate at +20 dB, and large signals in the passband no longer cause the SNR of weaker signals to be biased low. Times written to the ALL.TXT cumulative journal file are now correct, even when decoding occurs after the T/R sequence boundary.



## Amateur Radio Discussed at CEPT Meeting

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 reports the 96<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG) on June 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> dealt with several amateur radio matters. According to IARU Region 1, the European Common Allocation Table (ECA) was reviewed, resulting in a revised version for consultation with stakeholders. IARU was able to amend the 241 – 250 GHz band entry to correct some errors.

The state of the 50 – 52 MHz band in CEPT countries was also updated to take WRC-19 decisions into account. Last year, Ukraine requested that it be included in CEPT ECC [Recommendation T/R 61–02](#), the recommendation that defines the Harmonized Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC), and this was agreed. Romania had contacted the FMWG chairman concerning the possibility of introducing electronic amateur radio licensing. This idea been passed to CEPT’s Radio Amateur Forum Group for further discussion and possible action.

The meeting also discussed developing a regulatory framework for wireless power transfer (WPT) going forward, and attendees agreed that the CEPT Spectrum Engineering Working Group should continue to study the full range of WPT applications and emissions and that no regulatory steps would be taken until that work is complete. [Meeting documents](#) are available.

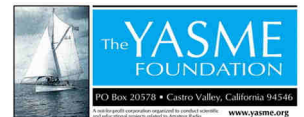
## YASME Foundation Supporting Grant to Establish Reverse Beacon Network Nodes in Africa

Ward Silver NØAX, President

St. Charles, MO, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation has made a supporting grant to establish Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) nodes in Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. The project will be carried out by youth in the Amateurs Radio Algeriens and Association des Radio Amateurs Tunisiens (<http://amateurradiointunisia.org>) radio clubs. The build out of these nodes will increase RBN presence in Africa for both the amateur and scientific communities.

The Reverse Beacon Network is a network of global Software Defined Radio (SDR) receivers, monitoring amateur radio bands and reporting CW, RTTY, and FT8 signals to a central database at [www.reversebeacon.net](http://www.reversebeacon.net)

The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to support scientific and educational projects related to amateur radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the introduction and promotion of amateur radio in developing countries. For additional information about The Yasme Foundation, visit our website at [www.yasme.org](http://www.yasme.org).



## CAS-6 Antenna Deployed, Transponder Activated

Alan Kung BA1DU courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – CAMSAT reports that the VHF-UHF antenna on the [CAS-6 satellite](#), launched December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, has been deployed and its linear amateur radio transponder activated. CAMSAT’s Alan Kung BA1DU reports that the CW beacon and GMSK telemetry are not working properly at this time, with only carriers being transmitted.

“We will try to diagnose and then determine whether the CW and telemetry data stream transmission can be recovered,” Kung said.

The U/V linear transponder uplink is 435.280 MHz, with the downlink at 145.925 MHz. The inverting passband is 20 kHz wide. The CW telemetry beacon is on 145.910 MHz. The AX.25 4.8 kbps GMSK telemetry frequency is 145.890 MHz







# Visalia DX Convention to be Two Virtual Events in 2021

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — It will be a Virtual Visalia in 2021. Organizers announced this week that the newly renamed International DX and Contesting Convention (IDXCC) in Visalia, California, will span two weekends next April, providing a “choice of two Vs.” Each will be a “unique 3-day event” without duplication. Registration will begin early next year. The former International DX Convention was canceled in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visalia sponsors said the event’s new name better reflects what the convention had become over the years — a gathering of both avid DXers and contesters from around the US and the world. Sponsors said the challenge for planning next year’s event was whether to prepare for an in-person convention or a virtual gathering.

“Everyone wants to hold out hope for a face-to-face meeting next year, but we have to ask, ‘What will our new normal lifestyle be like next April, and can we guarantee a COVID-free environment for our attendees?’” an announcement on the IDXCC website explained. “After consultation with a few medical experts, epidemiologists, and longtime attendees of IDXCC, we have concluded that for 2021, the right choice — and the safest choice — is to have a virtual convention instead of an in-person meeting.”

Visalia Part 1 will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and Part 2 on April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. The program will include forums, technical talks, DXpedition reports, and award presentations. The 2021 Virtual Visalia will offer a contest academy, DX University, hands-on demonstrations, webinars by exhibitors and special guests, a “chaotic eyeball QSO hour,” “dinners without dinner,” banquet-style gatherings for Islands on the Air (IOTA), Top Band, and contesting, “creative QSL card-checking,” and prize raffles.

“Just think: Whether you’re an old-timer or newcomer, you can have a safe, front-row seat at the first-ever Virtual DX and Contesting Convention next April without leaving [home],” organizers said. “The 2021 IDXCC Convention Committee will work hard to make this a memorable one.”

Visalia 2021 co-chairs John Miller K6MM and Rich Seifert KE1B invite questions and suggestions via [email](#).

## Mini-Visalia, Save the Date

Dick Norton N6AA & Jim Neiger N6TJ

Orange, CA, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — We will be hosting a “mini-Visalia”, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 at the Visalia Wyndham (our old Holiday Inn). Emphasis will be on friends gathering together, with minimal structured events.

We’ll have a catered BBQ on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> afternoon, and probably a mind altering hour Saturday evening. We’re working with the hotel to get a break on rates. QRX. If anyone wants to make a DX or contesting pitch, we’ll be open to that. Let us know, please.

Pass the word to any and all who might want to attend.

So we can get a tentative head-count, please send an email to [N6TJ@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:N6TJ@SBCGLOBAL.NET). Thanks!

(Update) June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — You can now book your rooms with the Group Code and Group Name, below. Rate should be \$95, and they are giving us a day before cancellation without penalty. Dates are 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and you are welcome to arrive 18 March, of course, at the same rate.

Group code is **031821CAL** Group Name **California DX Club**

Wyndham Visalia [http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/california/visalia/wyndham-visalia/hotel-overview?hotel\\_id=49281](http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/california/visalia/wyndham-visalia/hotel-overview?hotel_id=49281) Phone:: (559) 651-5000

(Update) June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 — Some of us attend the Visalia DX Convention in great measure to socialize with close friends, hams that we work on the air, and potential new friends. Some of us feel that this in-person socialization is an important part of our radio lives.

The planned 2021 Internet convention is missing the in-person socialization, and the smaller social gathering is planned to fill that void.

The social gathering is not organized to compete with the main convention, but to augment it. The event’s date was selected to not conflict with the main event.

### \*Social Gathering Details\*

As announced previously, a Visalia DX and Contesting Social Gathering is planned for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Visalia, California, Wyndham Hotel (refurbished former Holiday Inn.).

### \*Health Concerns\*

None of us are interested in contracting the Covid-19 virus, nor are we interested in anyone else contracting it at the event. We are uncertain about what impact the virus will be having ten months from now. We may cancel the event. We may cancel the event very close to the planned date if health concerns warrant it.

We expect to know considerably more about how society is faring as we approach the date. Radio-convention wise, Quartzfest, Orlando, and Yuma will have recently either functioned or have been cancelled, and that will impact our planning.

If the event happens, we don’t know whether we will try to require masks, enhanced social distancing, diver’s helmets with oxygen tanks, or what. At present, I don’t expect to be shaking hands with anyone.

### \*Overall Philosophy\*

Rather than have any particular clubs involved, Jim Neiger, N6TJ, and I decided to run the gathering as two individuals. This permits rapid reaction to whatever the future holds. Note that I was the Convention Chairman, when the DX Convention was first moved to Visalia in 1978, and where we had a two-person convention committee. We have the experience to make this event function smoothly.

Our intent is to keep the event as simple as possible. We do not expect to make money. In fact, we hope to not handle any money. The exact procedure for paying for the dinners is presently undefined, but we are working to somehow have attendees pay the hotel directly.

We expect that there will be no raffles, no prizes, no programs, no registration packets, no patches, no reserved seating, and probably no something-elses.

We expect that this event will be smaller than previous Visalias, and smaller than the main Internet event as well.

There will probably be an organized ARRL discussion, maybe some sort of organized contest discussion and/or DX discussion, and maybe a presentation or two on some sort of operation such as an expedition. Major DX-pedition presentations should be left for the main Internet event. The format of the discussions will be in some way dependent on the number of attendees present. These may be round table discussions or larger forums. We have been given use of the hotels meeting rooms. Any agenda will likely be finalized in the week before the event. If you have something you feel would be of interest that you can present or lead, please let us know.

If an ARRL or CQ Magazine QSL-card Checker shows up, there may be QSL checking, something probably not expected over the Internet.

The major activity is expected to be talking with each other, in a safe way. We will encourage getting to know people that you do not know well.

### \*Exhibitors\*

We have received inquiries regarding exhibitors. The current plan is to suggest that anyone wanting to exhibit products simply rent one of the

# Annual Alexanderson Day Transmission from SAQ

American Radio Relay League

Newington, Ct, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 –The vintage SAQ Alexanderson alternator in Grimeton, Sweden, will conduct its annual Alexanderson Day transmissions on 17.2 kHz on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Startup and tuning will begin at 0830 UTC, with the transmission commencing at 0900 UTC. Startup and tuning for the second transmission will begin at 1130 UTC, with the message transmission at 1200 UTC.

Both events will be broadcast live via the Alexanderson Association SAQ [YouTube channel](#). QSO via the [reception report form](#). Amateur radio station SK6SAQ will operate on 7.035 and 14.035 MHz (CW) and on 3.755 MHz SSB. [Send](#) reception reports via email. Two stations will be on the air most of the time.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, no visitors will be allowed into the radio station.

[More details](#) are on the Alexanderson Association website

SAQ Transmitter Tower image courtesy of the American Radio Relay League.



## ARRL To Hold National Convention at Orlando HamCation in February 2021

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – ARRL has announced that Orlando [HamCation®](#) will host the **2021 ARRL National Convention** in Orlando, Florida, February 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. The convention will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HamCation— one of the largest annual ham radio gatherings. The convention theme, “reDiscover Radio,” is a rallying call for radio amateurs committed to developing knowledge and skills in radio technology and radio communication.



The convention will kick off on Thursday, February, 11<sup>th</sup> with a series of day-long ARRL Training Tracks and a National Convention luncheon at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld. A complete program and list of presenters will be available later this summer. Registration will open in the fall. HamCation will host the rest of the convention Friday – Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando.

HamCation is sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC), an ARRL-affiliated club. OARC is supported by volunteers from radio clubs throughout the region. This year, an estimated 24,200 people attended all 3 days of the event. [Details](#) on tickets and information about forums, exhibits (including information for vendors and tailgaters), testing, travel, and preferred hotels with special rates are on the HamCation website.

Online ticket sales begin in August. Tickets purchased (postmarked) by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, will cost \$15 and are valid for all 3 days.

ARRL and HamCation acknowledge that this year's pandemic has introduced uncertainty into any long-term planning. Both organizations will follow all government and health requirements and guidelines as plans are committed for the 2021 event.

## Mini-Visalia

continued from Page 13

first-floor rooms that face hallways or other public areas, like we did 30 or 40 years ago. As we get closer, we will know the expected attendance, and whether the event merits exhibitors.

### \*Volunteers\*

Some of you have volunteered to help. Let's see what is needed as we proceed.

### \*Hotel\*

The Wyndham Hotel appears to be very desirous of our business, and is working hard to make this work. A reduced hotel rate of \$95 per night for one or two beds has been negotiated. The rate applies for Friday night, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday night, March 20<sup>th</sup>. A smaller number of rooms is also available for Thursday night, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Reservations may be cancelled up until one day before.

Call (559) 651-5000, Group code: 031 821 CAL. Group name: California DX Club.

Parking is free.

Motorhome parking is free, but if hookup is needed, expect a small cost.

### \*Expenses\*

We are endeavoring to run this without cost, but if we end up buying a bunch of cans of soda, we can probably live eating the expense. Otherwise, there may be a donation jar.

### \*From You\*

If think you will attend, please let Jim know at [N6TJ@sbcglobal.net](mailto:N6TJ@sbcglobal.net). If you have a probability of attending, such as 50%, please add that information.

Make your cancellable reservations directly with the hotel.

Show up. Bring adequate funds to pay for whatever you eat and drink.

Talk to your friends, safely.

Keep in mind that the event is 10 months away, and will not happen if conditions are not safe. Suggest not buying non-refundable airline tickets.



# Barefoot, Uphill, Both Ways

Jim Miccolis N2EY

courtesy of QRZ.COM

Wayne, PA, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – I earned Novice in 1967, age 13. Nobody in my family or immediate neighborhood was a ham; I learned radio from books, taking apart radios and TVs, and building radios out of the parts. I learned the code by listening to hams on 80 CW, one hand on the receiver controls, the other on the pencil.

The hardest part was finding a volunteer examiner for the Novice test. Nobody in my family knew any hams and they weren't at all keen on me getting a license anyway. One day I noticed an antenna in the side yard of a row house near the Upper Darby post office; it turned out to be Sam K3RTR. Sam was heavy into Navy MARS RTTY, but pointed me in the direction of other hams. Eventually I found Jim, K3NYT, who lived at the end of Keystone Avenue near the SEPTA yards at 69th Street Terminal (although it wasn't SEPTA then).

Getting a Novice in those days required *patience*. First, I wrote to the FCC for a Form 610, which they sent after a few weeks. I filled out the Form 610 and set up a test session with K3NYT a few nights later. He gave me the code tests (sending and receiving), which I passed, and then he sent the FCC the Form 610 and a letter saying I'd passed the code test and would they please send the written test. In about 6 weeks the written test arrived at K3NYT's house, and we set up another test session. He didn't even look at the written test; it came in a sealed envelope and left in another sealed envelope. All by the book.

Then the long wait for the FCC to process it. If I failed the written, I'd get a thick envelope with a failure notice, another Form 610, and instructions on how to proceed. The whole procedure would have to be done again; there was no credit for the code tests if you failed the written.

What arrived was the treasured "small envelope" with just the license inside. October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1967, license effective October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1967. It took so long for FCC to process the written test that I'd built my transmitter and TR system while waiting. And so I was on the air, with 10 watts input to a 6V6GT on 3726 kc.

That was just before the changes known as "Incentive Licensing" went into effect. I got one of the very first 2 year Novices, because of the changes. But there was much more to come.

I remember so clearly how, back then, there was a lot of hand-wringing, wailing and gnashing of teeth about "Incentive Licensing", and all sorts of stories by folks much older and more experienced than me, telling how *incredibly difficult* the Advanced was, and how you pretty much had to be a combination Ted McElroy and Major Armstrong to pass the Extra, which was so much harder and required 20 wpm code too. How incentive licensing would *destroy* amateur radio, make our gear worthless, etc. Boo hoo hoo.

A sensible person might have been intimidated, but I was too dumb, clueless and inexperienced to realize that there was no hope for a kid like me to pass such exams....

The next step would be the General license. The nearest FCC office was in Philadelphia, and the Technician had no HF privileges, so it would have to be at least the General to make any difference.

There was no "uphill both ways in the snow" for me. I grew up in Upper Darby, PA, birthplace of B&W, Jim Croce, Todd Rundgren and Tina Fey. (You're welcome). The FCC office was at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut in Philly. All I had to do was walk less than a mile to the 69<sup>th</sup> Street Terminal, ride the El downtown (25 cents in those days), walk a few blocks to the Customs House and ride the elevator to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor. Piece of cake, really.

The Big Problem was that FCC exams were only given on a few weekdays - Mondays and Wednesdays for tests involving code. For people with day jobs this meant at least a half-day off work. For kids in school, like me, this meant waiting for summer vacation, or a day when school was not in session but Federal offices were open AND it was a Monday or Wednesday. This didn't happen too often!

Playing hooky was *not* an option; the FCC Examiner would want to know why you weren't in school. Getting parental permission was out; I knew better than to even ask. So it was a matter of timing.

In those days, the FCC Examiner was very explicit about the code tests. You got 5 minutes of code, and when the code stopped, you put your pencil DOWN. You did not go back and fix or fill in, and The Examiner would not ask you questions on your copy. It had to be legible to *him*. This was all spelled out in detail by The Examiner before the test started. You had to send, too, and all the FCC provided was a J-38 straight key and oscillator.

By early summer 1968 I thought I was ready for the General, so I went to the FCC office and took the tests. But the FCC Examiner couldn't read my parochial-school "Palmer Method" longhand well enough to find the required 65 consecutive *legible* characters. But he did find 25 consecutive *legible* characters, so I got 5 wpm credit, passed the General written, and got a Technician. The Examiner said all I had to do for the General was come back and pass 13 wpm code. Back then you could hold both a Technician and a Novice simultaneously.

With no VHF/UHF gear, the Tech was useless to me except for the fact that it meant I could focus entirely on code, and could work the 6 meter station on Field Day by myself. In those days, if you failed an FCC test, you had to wait 30 days or more before a retest would be allowed.

So I went home and taught myself to block-print at 30 wpm. Copied code with it night after night after night until I could put down an 18 wpm W1AW bulletin solid, beginning to end, clear, legible and no mistakes. Whole process took 6 weeks or so.

I went back to the FCC office later in the summer of 1968 and passed the 13 wpm code easily. As I was about to leave, The Examiner suggested I try the Advanced while I was there. I hadn't studied for it at all, but I knew better than to say no to The Examiner, so I tried it.....and passed. Got an Advanced instead of a General.

I was 14 years old then, and 1968 was the summer before I entered high school. *So how hard could the Advanced have really been back then?*

In those days you had to have at least 2 years' experience as a General or higher before you could even *try* the Extra tests. When I got home that day, I drew up a calendar for the next two years, to figure out when the first FCC exam session would be where I could take the Extra. It worked out to late summer, 1970.

The Advanced license arrived in due time, and I had full privileges for a few weeks until November 22, 1968, when the "incentive licensing" rules went into effect.

I was ready for the Extra by mid-1969, but the 2 years' experience requirement made me wait until that late summer day in 1970. On the first day when I could try the Extra, I was there at the FCC office well before the 8 AM start time, to be sure to get a spot.

The waiting room was pretty full that day, and I was the youngest one there by far. Right at 8 AM The Examiner came into the waiting room and asked if anyone was there for 20 wpm code. One hand went up: mine. I was the only one there for the Extra!

The Examiner motioned for me to follow him into the exam room, and left everyone else waiting.

For code testing there was a big table with chairs around it. The Examiner went to a locked file cabinet, unlocked it, and took out paper, pencils, headphones, key, code machine, and paper tapes for the code machine, arranging them all on the table, and pointing to where I should sit.

The code machine they used in the Philly office was a small thing that used punched paper tape. It ran on batteries and had an oscillator built in. Speed was changed by changing the drive spindle for the paper tape.

The Examiner gave the standard speech about 5 minutes of code, 1 minute of correct consecutive legible copy, and putting your pencil DOWN after the code stopped. I'd done this twice before, but everyone got the standard speech, so no one could claim they didn't understand the procedure. To pass 20 wpm required 100 consecutive *legible* characters or more.

He asked "Ready?" I put on the phones and nodded. He started the machine, and the code was loud and clear in the phones. I started copying in big block letters, getting every character. This was certainly easier than trying to copy CW NTS message traffic through summer QRN and QRM!

The Examiner watched me from across the table. Then he came around behind me, watching over my shoulder as I copied. Then he walked back around the table and looked at the code machine. All the while I was copying the code, trying to concentrate, trying not to miss any, and to make the copy legible. If I messed this up, it would be a long time before I could try again, because summer break would be over.

# AMSAT Spells Out It's GOLF Objectives

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – AMSAT says the aim of its developing "Greater Orbit, Larger Footprint" (GOLF) satellite program is to place amateur radio transponders in low-Earth orbit (LEO), medium-Earth orbit (MEO), and eventually high-Earth orbit (HEO).

"The goal of the GOLF program is to work by steps through a series of increasingly capable spacecraft to learn skills and systems for which we do not yet have any low-risk experience. Among these are active attitude control, deployable/steerable solar panels, radiation tolerance for commercial off-the-shelf components in higher orbits, and propulsion," AMSAT explains. "The first step is to be one or more LEO satellites similar to the existing AO-91 and AO-92, but with technologies needed for higher orbits. With proven technologies, an interim high LEO or MEO satellite would follow on."

AMSAT says the eventual goal is an HEO satellite similar to AO-10, AO-13, and AO-40, "but at a currently affordable cost combined with significantly enhanced capabilities, which, in turn, will allow the use of much less complex ground stations."



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Southgate Amateur Radio News Service

Cleveland, OH, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Once again, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual '13 Colonies Special Event' will take place between 1300z July 1<sup>st</sup> through 0400z July 7<sup>th</sup>.

The certificate is printed on heavy card stock. Stations working one state or, as many as all 15, will be eligible for the certificate. A "Clean Sweep" indicator will be affixed for those lucky enough to work all 15.

A special endorsement will be attached for stations contacting their sister operation, **WM3PEN**, in Philadelphia, PA, where independence was declared. New since 2015, the 13 Colonies have added a second sister event station. **GB13COL** will operate from Durham, England.

The special events stations mentioned are:

- \* K2A (NY)
- \* K2B (VA)
- \* K2C (RI)
- \* K2D (CT)
- \* K2E (DE)
- \* K2F (MD)
- \* K2G (GA)
- \* K2H (MA)
- \* K2I (NJ)
- \* K2J (NC)
- \* K2K (NH)
- \* K2L (SC)
- \* K2M (PA)
- \* WM3PEN
- \* GB1COL



The 13 Colonies certificate will have a Liberty Bell added for a contact with WM3PEN.

There should be at least two stations from each on the 13 colonies on the air, as well as Super contest stations, multi-operator Club stations and OM and XYL teams.

The U.S. original 13 colonies are CT-DE-GA-MA-MD-NC-NH-NJ-NY-PA- RI-SC-VA.

All HF bands will be in play, including the WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. 2 meters and 6 meter simplex are encouraged.

All modes of operation should be represented - SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital, and the Satellites. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state station.

For more details on the stations, suggested frequencies, QSL info and how to obtain the special certificate, see: <http://www.13colonies.us>

All Short Wave Listeners (SWL), you can also qualify for the certificate.

K2M 13 Colonies QSL Requests with SASE are via K3MJW, Skyview Radio Society, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

## Barefoot, Uphill, Both Ways

continued from Page 15

Then The Examiner shut the machine off! I looked up - only about 90 seconds had gone by - two minutes at most! Was I in trouble? What about the 5 minutes of code?

The Examiner then said "That was pretty easy, huh, kid?"

All I could manage was "I guess so...."

"It should be" he replied. "That was only 13 words per minute. Here's 20"

And he quickly produced another drive spindle and swapped it with the one in the machine. Then he restarted the machine, and the REAL test began. The code came much faster, and all I could do was write it down as best I could. That time I got the full five minutes, and when the code stopped, I put the pencil down and The Examiner took the paper.

After a few moments, he said "You passed".

Then it was sending on the J-38 at 20 per - no big deal; all I had at home then was a J-37 straight key anyway. Passed that, and then it was time for the written. During the written test, other hopefuls were allowed into the exam room. I passed the written and went home to wait for the Extra license to arrive.

I will never know if The Examiner simply forgot to change the drive spindle that morning so long ago, or if he was trying to rattle me. Either way, I passed, and in a few weeks started 11th grade.

I wasn't an unusual case; there were Advanceds and Extras much younger than me back then. Today there are Extras in elementary school, some whose ages aren't even double-digits yet.

It's been 50 years since that summer of 1970 when I earned the Extra, and I still wonder - if a dumb kid like me could get the Advanced and then the Extra, self-taught, could the tests *really* have been all that hard for anyone willing to learn a little radio? What was all the fuss about?

And yes, I could still pass all those tests today - or the current ones - with zero preparation. Nothing to it. Piece of cake. *Bring 'em on!*



# Balloon Launched by Web Show Host Completes Second Circumnavigation

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – A balloon launched on May 20<sup>th</sup> by “Amateur Radio Roundtable” web show host Tom Medlin W5KUB and team has begun its third circumnavigation of Earth. The balloon, at 43,000 – 45,000 feet, completed its second trip around the globe on June 19<sup>th</sup>. It crossed the Atlantic ocean “in record time” at a speed of about 170 MPH, the balloon website reported this week.

The balloon, identified as W5KUB-18, carries APRS and WSPR amateur radio payloads. As of the afternoon of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, it was heading over Uzbekistan at over 100 MPH.

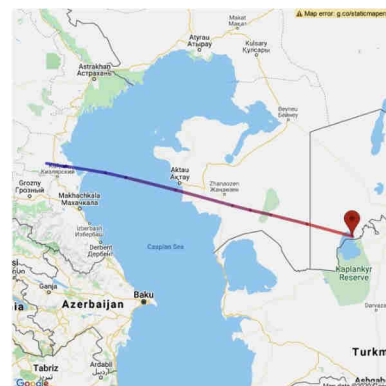
As the balloon website states, the mission and goal are to launch a high-altitude balloon for long-duration and multiple trips around the world. The balloon, an SBS-13, is capable of flying up to 45,000 feet. “It will be filled with hydrogen to obtain higher altitude,” the website explains. “It will be solar powered only (no batteries, so it will only transmit during daylight). We will receive tracking every 10 minutes via WSPR on HF [14.0971 MHz].” Tracking transmissions will be turned off over the UK, Yemen, and North Korea due to regulations. The homebrew tracking transmitter runs just 10 mW but, Medlin told ARRL, it’s being heard as far away as 9,000 miles.

“The entire tracker with GPS and processor is only 2 grams,” Medlin said. “That’s about the weight of a penny. The entire payload is only 15 grams total.” The current effort is the group’s 9<sup>th</sup> attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

Medlin says the balloon project has broadened his horizons. “You have to do a lot of specific engineering and measurements down to the 0.1 gram to fly one,” he told ARRL. “You also become a weatherman, watching all the NOAA websites, winds at different altitudes, storms, etc. Storms will bring you down,” Medlin said. With the float altitude set at 44,000 feet, he expects to be able to fly above most storms. “You also become very well-versed in geography as it flies,” he added.

“It’s been a great experience, and hams around the world are having a great time,” Medlin attested. “I even issue them a certificate for being part of the experience. Many young people are watching and getting involved, and teachers who teach STEM are contacting me to get information and help. We are having fun.”

Medlin’s livestreamed “Amateur Radio Roundtable” (promotional) goes live on Tuesdays at 9 PM Eastern Time and accepts calls from viewers. The show is simulcast on HF at 5,130 kHz. He has operated a live cam at Dayton Hamvention® for several years.



Map courtesy of ARRL

## Ham's Call for Help Relayed Across the Atlantic

Jerry Palmer N3KRX, Assistant EC, Kent County, DE courtesy of the ARRL ARES E-Letter for June 2020

Houston, DE, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – On Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Kent County Amateur Radio Club member Ken Dix KB2KBD picked up an emergency call on the 146.91 MHz repeater: Richard Tashner N2EO of Massapequa, New York, was suffering a medical emergency and could not reach his phone to call for help. He was close enough to grab the microphone to his DMR radio. Tashner called for help and Maxis Johnston GMØMRJ answered his call. Johnston then called for “anyone in the states” and was heard by Dix on the 91 machine, which was linked to the North American talk group. Dix called a police department in New York near Tashner, and help was sent.

Dix said the dispatcher in New York was able to hear part of the call and was amazed at how an amateur radio communication had gone from New York to Scotland to Delaware and then back to New York. The dispatcher was also surprised at how quickly the information had been relayed across the Atlantic.

The 146.91 MHz repeater near Woodside, Delaware, is set on C4FM Fusion and is linked to DMR on “America’s Net.” The repeater is located at the Delaware State Communications complex.

Kudos to the operators for their alertness and willingness to take the emergency call and get the information relayed to the proper personnel. Amateur Radio at its finest!



## MARS Announces HF Skills Exercise

Paul English, Chief, Army MARS courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will conduct an HF skills exercise July 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> to hone their operating skills and messaging-handling capabilities.

MARS members will be reaching out to the amateur radio community via the 60-meters Channel 1 Net (5330.5 kHz dial) twice a day, the SATERN HF net (14.265 MHz), and by contacting various stations via HFLink throughout the exercise. MARS members will be requesting assistance with collecting county status information as well as airport weather information, called METARs. MARS members will also be passing ICS 213 messages to numerous Department of Defense (DoD), federal, and amateur radio addressees.

This exercise will be announced via WWV at 00:10 and via WWVH at 00:50 starting on or about July 13<sup>th</sup>. WWV and WWVH listeners will be asked to take an online listener survey. This HF radio training event will not impact regular communications

### SPI Pin Label Language Change:

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Open Source Hardware Association (OSHA) announced a resolution for changing the way Serial Peripheral Interface pins are labelled on hardware and in datasheets. The protocol originally included MOSI/MISO references that stand for “Master Out, Slave In” and “Master In, Slave Out”.

The new language for SPI pin labeling recommends the use of SDO/SDI (Serial Data Out/In) for single-role hardware, and COPI/CIPO for “Controller Out, Peripheral In” and “Controller In, Peripheral Out” for devices that can be either the controller or the peripheral. The change also updates the “SS” (Slave Select) pin to use “CS” (Chip Select).

SPI is widely used in embedded system design and appears in a huge range of devices, with the pin labels published numerous times in everything from datasheets and application notes to written and video tutorials posted online. Changing the labels removes unnecessary references to slavery without affecting the technology itself.

News Brief courtesy of Mike Szczys, [Hackaday.com](https://hackaday.com)

# ARRL Seeks Vintage DX Logs for Archive

American Radio Relay League

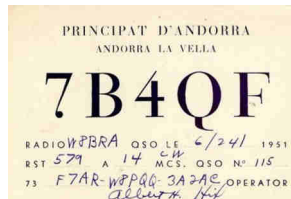
Newington, CT, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – ARRL continues to solicit paper logs of prominent DXpeditions or logs from stations and operators active from more rare locations from the 1950s through the 1980s, for inclusion in [The DX Log Archive Endowed by JA1BK](#). The DX Log Archive program was created, thanks to an endowment established by Kan Mizoguchi JA1BK to obtain, preserve, and utilize paper logs from rare and significant DXpeditions.

The archive will include pre-1950 paper logs as well as those from interesting operations, other documents from DXpeditions, and logs kept by long-time residents of rare entities. All logbooks received to date have been inventoried and are housed at ARRL Headquarters.

Former ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager [Dave Patton NN1N](#) will manage the program. Patton noted the recent receipt of interesting logs from Hal Turley W8HC. These included some old logs of Al Hix W8AH (ex W8PQQ).

Especially significant is the June 1951 [7B4QF](#) operation from Andorra — the first amateur radio operation from that country. Hix was there with Bill Orr W6SAI; Gus SM5UM, and Mick ON4QF. See "Operation Andorra" by Bill Orr W6SAI, in the October 1951 issue of QST. Other W8AH paper logs include the 1951 [PX1AR](#) Andorra and [3A2AC](#) Monaco operations.

**Contact** Patton for more information about logs or related DXing ephemera that might be of interest to the DX Log Archive.



# Video Explains the Mission & Purpose of the IARU

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The [video](#) "What is IARU?" is now available on the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 website.

"This video explains the mission and roles of IARU to represent, develop, and defend frequencies for amateur radio around the world," IARU Region 2 explains. "It also describes the regional organizations and the critical roles of its more than 160 member-societies."

The English-language presentation was developed by the IARU Administrative Committee and approved at its meeting last October in Lima, Peru. The short video, available in English and Spanish, was produced by IARU Region 2 Director Carlos Beviglia LU1BCE and Fernando Gomez Rojas LU1ARG. The videos are available in MP4 format.

IARU Region 2 encourages member-societies and radio clubs to use the videos to explain the role and mission of IARU to amateurs, regulators, and others.

The direct link to the video is <https://www.iaru-r2.org/en/reference/resources-for-member-societies/what-is-iaru/>

MØKRI has postponed his planned July operation as [5X1RI](#) for at least another 6 months.

YI1DZ is now QRV as [Z81D](#) from South Sudan through 10 October, 80 – 10 SSB & FT8. Diya is QRV as time permits, usually on Sundays. QSL via OM3JW

A Polish DXpedition group will be QRV as [XRØYSP](#) from Easter Island 15 – 30 September, 160 – 10, CW SSB & FT8. More information at <http://xr0ysp.dxing.pl/> QSL via SP6IXF

A group of US and VE operators will be QRV as [TO5T](#) from [St. Pierre & Miquelon](#) (NA-032) 10-17 August, 160 -6, CW SSB & FT8. More information at [TO5T.Com](#). QSL via WB2REM



# DX News Briefs

DL8UD's operation as [TO5O](#) for the RSGB IOTA contest, 25 July, has been cancelled, due to difficulties in obtaining flight from Europe to Martinique.

The Russian Robinson Club has rescheduled the [KL7RRC](#) DXpedition to Adak Island NA-039 from September 2020 to June 2021. They report that the fish processing plant on the island is currently closed, and there is no transportation there at this time.

The [W8S](#) Swains Island DXpedition has been postponed to Spring 2021 at the earliest.

WW6RG's trip to [KH9 Wake Island](#) and [V7 Marshall Islands](#) in mid-June have been postponed due to flight cancellations. He is planning to reschedule but is awaiting more information. QSL via WW6RG.

A fire broke out in the radio room at the Russian facility "Mirny" in the Antarctic on 21 June. The radio room, a lab, and other rooms were burned and severely damaged. No one was injured, but 11 staff who worked at the facility were relocated. As a result, [RI1ANM](#) from Mirny Station is now QRT.

[J68HZ](#) will be QRV through early September. Look for him daily from 0100 – 1000 UTC on 160 meter FT8. QSL via LoTW or as directed.

DK5ON will be QRV as [EA6/DK5ON](#) from Mallorca (EU-004) through 11 July, QRP, 40 – 6 meters, CW SSB & multiple digital modes.

The "DX Friends" [HD8R](#) DXpedition to the Galapagos was scheduled to be QRV "soon". The website, <http://www.dxfriends.com/galapagos/>, remains "under construction." QSL via EA5RM

[YJ4ØIND](#) is QRV through July to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vanuatu. They will be QRV primarily weekends, 40 20 & 15, CW SSB & FT8.

[3A1W1RBI](#) will be QRV 6 – 19 July, 30 – 6 meters, SSB & FT8.

[9A2ØA](#) will be QRV from Velika Palabruz Island (EU-090) 17 – 30 July. QSL via S58MU. Outside of the RSGB IOTA contest, individual operators will sign 9A/home calls.

HB9HBY and HB9TWU will be QRV as [HBØ/HB9HBY](#) 24-26 July, 80 – 6, CW SSB & FT8. They may have a 'special' call sign for the Saturday operation. QSL via EB7DX

JJ1DQR will QRV as [8Q7QR](#) 4 – 8 Sept, HF, SSB & FT8. QSL via JJ1DQR LZ1GC and LZ1PM will be QRV 28 Sept – 17 Oct as [E6AM](#) from Niue, 160 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via LZ1GC.

LZ1GC and LZ1PM will be QRV 19 Oct – 2 Nov as [A35GC](#) from Tonga, 160 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via LZ1GC.

The [N4T](#) DXpedition to Dry Tortugas Island (NA-079) has been postponed from 21-24 July to (tentatively) December 2020.

LA7GIA will be leading the [JXØX](#) DXpedition to Jan Mayen in late September 2021. This will be an all-band DXpedition, with focus on the low bands 160 – 30 on CW & Digital modes. A website will be forthcoming. QSL via LA7GIA or as directed.

# QSL Routes

3G1T via CE1AT	GBØWMZ via MWØJWP	OO6O via ON6VDS
8Q7QR via JJ1DQR	GM4Z via GM4ZUK	OP5T via ON4DS
4L1R via W3HNK	GS2MP via N3SL	OR2FG via ON8LDS
4V5H via EB7DX	HBØ/HB9HBY via	OT1V via ON8VM
5P6PI via OZ6PI	EB7DX	P3X via 5B4AMN
9A2ØA via S58MU	HB15SOTA via	PJ7AA via AA9A
9J2LA via MØOXO	HB9DPR	PZ5JW via EA5GL
A35GC via LZ1GC	HD8R via EA5RM	SC7DX via SM7GIB
A41CK via A61BK	HP3SS via AC2OV	SNØR via SQ9IAU
A6ØCH/5 via A92AA	II8G via IZ8NWA	SP5ØENV via DL1EKO
AM5ØØISJ via EA7URF	JXØX via LA7GIA	TM7Q via DF3FS
CO2ØØSMP via CO2AME	KG4MA via W1SRR	TT8SN via DL9USA
CR6K via CT1ILT	KHØW via KCØW	RI1ANM via RX3ABI
DKØA via DH8IAT	KL7RRC via N7RO	VK9NK via SP9FIH
DL2ØLAGA via DM4EAX	LX2ØI via LX2A	VP2ETE via W3HNK
E2A via E21EIC	MMØC via MMØCEZ	VP8HDM via VP8LP
E6AM via LZ1GC	MM2N via MMØGPZ	W3W via KS3N
EA5IQX via DK1RU	OK8CCC via DL4MFM	W9C via N9TK
ED1D via EC1D	OL13FORT via	WU1ITU via KA1R
ED3C via EA3IBV	OK2NO	YPlD via YO4RIU
EF1A via EA1X	OJØJR via OH3JR	YT1Z via YU1ACR
GBØATM via MW5DJØ	OMØR via OM3GI	Z81D via OM3JW

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.

You can lead a ham to resonance, but you can't make him radiate  
— Eric Stephenson WZ7U





## WASH Classifieds

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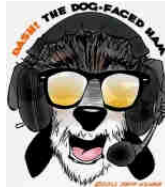
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law  
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056  
Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com> !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, [www.cafepress.com/shopdash](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



### US Amateurs by Class as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

Novice	8,635
Technician	418,838
General	188,462
Advanced	40,158
Extra	155,517
Club	12,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>824,307</b>

All-Time High 02/25/2020 826,006

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	5,817
	Callsign Changes	2,637
	Class Changes	2,465
	No Longer Licensed	6,906
	All Updates (*)	27,987

(\*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [Hamdata.com](http://Hamdata.com)

## 3Y0I News

**Rebel DX Group Website, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – After today's telephone conversation with the Norwegian Polar Institute, we learned that the Institute suspends all scientific expeditions to a small weather base located on the west side of the Bouvet island. It is very likely that the station was swept to the ocean by a "landslide".

The 3Y0I Radio Expedition is not at risk. We keep pushing to get a full budget before we set a sail again by end of the year. Our base will be established on the eastern side of the island on the glacier. This part of the island is not exposed to the worst western winds, waves and landslides. We want to remind you that we have access to accurate, current satellite photographic data of our landing site.

Dom 3Z9DX also has over 100 pictures from his non-radio visit and materials from other people who had visited the island. We are really well prepared to do this job.

Now is your turn to help or forget about Bouvet in the log. Donation link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/3y0i-bouvet-island-expedition>

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**



## FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Notable FCC actions taken during June 2020, as reported in the FCC Daily Digest:

- ♦ IN THE MATTER OF ANTHONY M. EDWARDS STROUDSBURG, PA. Anthony M. Edwards agrees to \$1500 settlement and voluntary surrender of broadcasting equipment, resolving investigation into whether Edwards operated an unauthorized radio station. Action by: Chief, Enforcement Bureau. Adopted: 2020-06-17 by Order/Consent Decree. (DA No. 20-620). EB. [DA-20-620A1.pdf](#)
- ♦ GERALD SUTTON, ALMA, ARKANSAS. EB imposes \$10,000 monetary forfeiture against Gerald Sutton for willfully operating an unlicensed FM broadcast station on 103.1 MHz in Alma, Arkansas. Action by: Acting Field Director, Enforcement Bureau. Adopted: 2020-06-17 by Forfeiture Order. (DA No. 20-638). EB. [DA-20-638A1.docx](#) [DA-20-638A1.pdf](#) [DA-20-638A1.txt](#)
- ♦ FCC DISMISSES APPLICATION FOR CALIFORNIA STUDIO WITH LINKS TO CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER PROGRAMMING ACROSS THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER FOR REBROADCAST INTO THE UNITED STATES. Orders Studio to Cease Such Operations Within 48 Hours. by News Release. News Media Contact: Will Wiquist at (202) 418-0509, email: [Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov](mailto:Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov). OMR IB. [DOC-365056A1.docx](#) [DOC-365056A1.pdf](#) [DOC-365056A1.txt](#)

## New Event Brings Hams Together

Kevin Thornton K5KVN courtesy of Hamhijinks.com

**Racine, WA, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020** — A local ham radio group is pioneering a new way to bring hamradio operators together and clean up the airwaves at the same time.

The Northwest Operators In Several Events club (NOISE) will host "QRMing In The Park" this Saturday at the downtown dog park.

"The whole concept came about as a way to let some of these LIDS release their frustrations in a safe setting, all at the same time – and most importantly – on the same frequency," said NOISE president Zeke Anderson. "Let's give them this one chance to get it all out, then they won't QRM at random times," he added.

Amateur radio operator Myron Goldman says he likes the idea. "The barking dogs in the background will be a really nice touch," he said.

Suggested items to bring to the event include:

- ♦ Transmitter (preferably misaligned as to encourage splatter)
- ♦ Antenna with high SWR
- ♦ Straight key that can accommodate a brick set upon the key
- ♦ Sound effects app on your phone
- ♦ A referee's whistle or other noise-making device
- ♦ A dish suitable for potluck lunch

Rebel DX Group [rebeldxgroup.com](http://rebeldxgroup.com)

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to [wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

# Somerset County ARC 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest

~~Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM~~

More Information at <http://www.k3smt.org>



# CANCELLED

# Uniontown ARC 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Gabfest

~~Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—???~~

**~~NEW DATE!!~~**

More Information at <http://www.w3pie.org>



# CANCELLED

# Skyview Radio Society "Swap N Shop"

~~Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—???~~

Vendor Setup prior to 8:00 AM

**K3MJW Clubhouse**

2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in on 146.64 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.skyviewradio.net>



# Butler County ARA Swapfest 2020

~~Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM~~

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

**Unionville Volunteer Fire Department**

102 Mahood Road (at Route 8 North), Butler, PA 16001

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.w3udx.org>





# ***DX Engineering Cancels Second Annual August Hamfest***



DX Engineering News Release

Tallmadge, OH, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Citing public health concerns, DX Engineering announced the cancellation of its second annual DXE Hamfest, which was scheduled to be held at its headquarters near Akron, Ohio, on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This year's event was planned in conjunction with the ARRL's Ohio Section Convention. The logistics of safely managing the anticipated large crowds—evidenced by last year's DXE Hamfest attendance—played a role in DX Engineering's decision.

"Calling off the event came after much discussion about the uncertainty of where Ohio would be in terms of the COVID-19 outbreak in three months," said Tim Duffy K3LR, DX Engineering Chief Executive Officer. "Rather than having to cancel the event at the last minute and alter attendees' plans, we decided it was in everyone's best interest to act now. It was a difficult decision that we hope everyone will understand."

DX Engineering looks forward to seeing everyone in August 2021. Check DX Engineering's [Facebook page](#) and [OnAirBands](#) for details coming soon.

## ***Uniontown ARC 2020 Gabfest Cancelled***

Uniontown ARC Website <https://www.w3pie.org>

Uniontown, PA, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 – It is with much regret that we announce the decision to cancel the Gabfest that was to be held on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The membership present at the meeting reviewed information at hand regarding the Pennsylvania restrictions for gatherings and such. After discussion, the membership determined that the Gabfest would not be able to be safely held to keep our members and attendees safe from COVID19 exposure.

We have several hamfest prizes that were already purchased: Quantity 1 – Yaesu FTM-3200DR 65W VHF Fusion Mobile, Quantity 2 – Yaesu FTM-3207DR 55W UHF Fusion Mobiles, and a few other assorted items. **We would like to offer an incentive to donate by conducting a drawing for each of the remaining prizes** to be held at the conclusion of the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 UARC General Business Meeting. For each dollar donated, you will receive one chance in the drawing for the available prizes. A \$100 donation would receive 100 chances. A \$20 donation would receive 20 chances.

If you would like to assist UARC in offsetting our loss for 2020 and our Gabfest cancellation, please send your donation to UARC, c/o George Syner, Treasurer, 433 Old Pittsburgh Rd, Uniontown, PA 15401.



# **WACOM HAMFEST 2020**

## ***Washington County Fairgrounds***

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

**Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Setup at 6:30 AM**

**Talk-In on 146.790 (No PL)**



First Prize:	To Be Announced
Second Prize:	To Be Announced
Third Prize:	To Be Announced
Fourth Prize:	To Be Announced

### **Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM**

**Winner Need Not Be Present To Win**

**Black Box:**

**What is it? It's a Mystery!  
— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —**

### **VE Testing**

**Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Available**

**Check [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org) for Updates**

**Vendors contact:**  
**Tom Wright KC3TOM**  
**[kc3tom@arrl.net](mailto:kc3tom@arrl.net)**

**412-414-5627**

**117 Perry Road**

**Burgettstown, PA 15021**

***The sale of illegal amplifiers or Adult Material  
is strictly prohibited***



# WASHfest 2021

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY SIXTH** big year!  
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

## Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129  
Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



**(800) 545-8881**

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



*FREE Coffee* for the entire Hamfest  
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES  
of Canonsburg, PA

## MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!

First Prize: To Be Announced

Second Prize: To Be Announced

Third Prize: To Be Announced

### Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

**All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes**

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)  
E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance eleven years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Or More** Tables w/o: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHFEST 2021**  
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN  
4246 Seton Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!





# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter \_\_\_\_\_)  
(check one )

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date*

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.  
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.  
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.  
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
1120 McKnight Drive  
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,  
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



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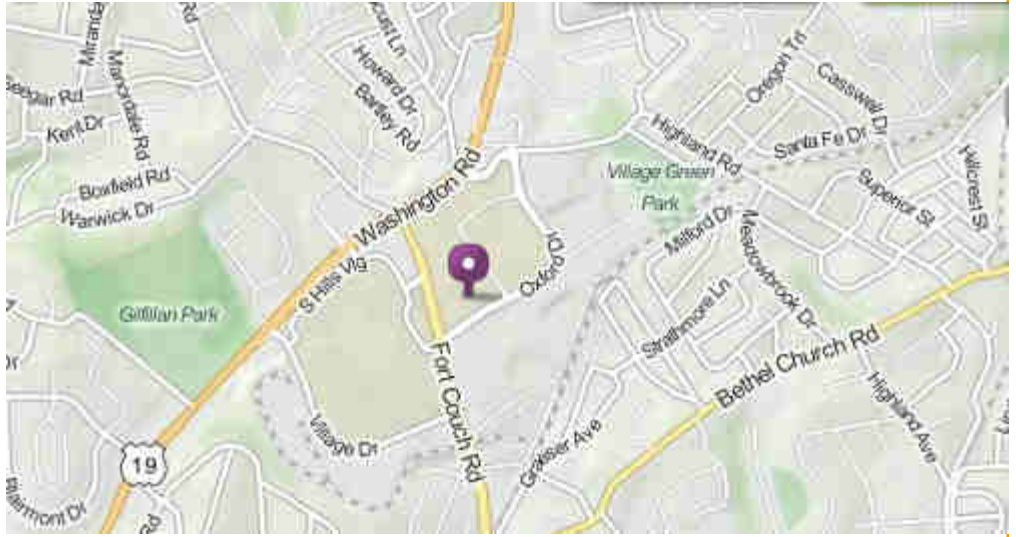
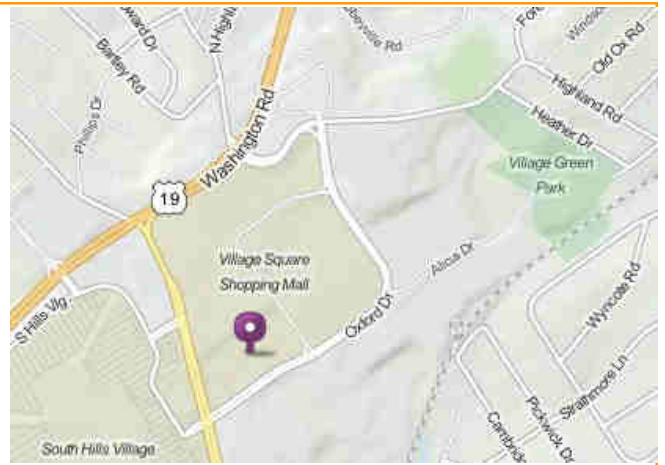


# ***2020 WASH Meeting Location***

## **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room**

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from  
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



## **The WASHRag**

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)  
[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)

